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SEMINAR CUM WORKSHOP FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS WESTERN REGION PUNE

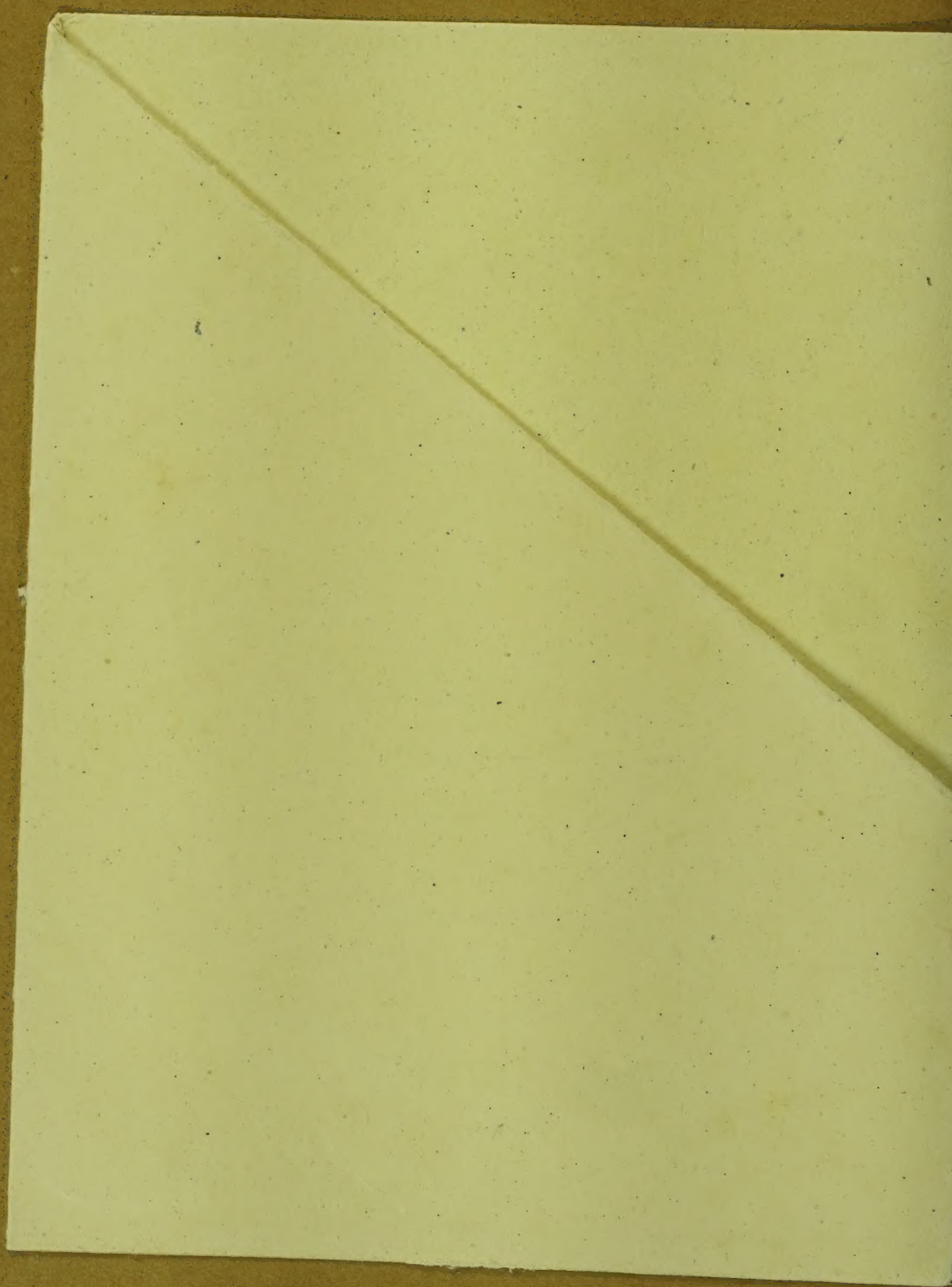
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**People's Action For Development
(India)**

**DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
A-1, Nizamuddin West, New Delhi-110013**

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SEMINAR CUM WORKSHOP FOR
VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
WESTERN REGION
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COMMUNITY HEALTH CELL

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INAUGURAL SESSION

22.8.1985	:	10 A.M.
Chief Guest	:	Shri Jayant Rao Tilak
Special Guest	:	Shri V.S. Page
President	:	Shri Sharad Kulkarni

The Seminar cum workshop started with a prayer song by Kumari Lina Sugandhi.

The proceedings of the inauguration session are given below:

Shri T.C.A. Srinivasaramanujan:

I have great pleasure in welcoming all the delegates to the western regional seminar cum workshop.

PADI is completing 25 years during 1985 and is celebrating its Silver Jubilee. In the wake of this, PADI has been having wide ranging discussions with voluntary organisations. We started with a conference of net work agencies in the voluntary sector in April 1985 and a conference of voluntary organisations working in the field of women in June 1985. This will be the first in the series of regional seminars cum workshops during which PADI would be able to interact with a much larger number of voluntary organisations. The intention is to climax the regional discussions with a national level convention. In all these interactions, PADI proposes to discuss the following issues :

- (a) How to simplify the procedures and systems in PADI to make the organisation more effective in assisting voluntary organisations ?
- (b) How to familiarise voluntary organisations with the scope of PADI's activities ?
- (c) The need to generate more and more projects from voluntary organisations and the scope of assisting them in project preparation.
- (d) The scope for utilising leading voluntary organisations to help other voluntary organisations in project formulation.

- (e) The scope for utilising voluntary organisations in project appraisal and project evaluation work.
- (f) How best to adapt various Government programmes to make them amenable for implementation by voluntary organisations ?
- (g) Is there any need to establish a nodal organisation for rural voluntary agencies which will act as a watchdog body and also as a regulatory body to enforce certain norms of accountability on voluntary organisations ?
- (h) Is there any need for formulating a code of conduct for voluntary organisations and, if so, what should be the broad features of the code of conduct ?

It is necessary that all these issues should be discussed so as to arrive at a broad consensus which could form the basis for future course of action.

I am extremely glad that Shri Jayant Rao Tilak, Chairman. Maharashtra Vidhan Parishad and the scion of the illustrious family of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak has very graciously agreed to bless this gathering by his august presence. I welcome him to inaugurate this meeting. I also welcome all the distinguished delegates of voluntary organisations of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa who have readily responded to our invitations and are giving their valuable time to enrich the proceedings of this meeting.

Dr. Jayant Rao Patil:

It is my proud privilege to introduce Shri Jayant Rao Tilak to the participants. Shri Tilak has knowledge in political, educational and social spheres. He is connected with several institutions. He has had a very distinguished educational career in organic chemistry. He joined Kesari, the journal founded by Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak and nursed its phenomenal growth. Shri Tilak is connected with several institutions in rural development activities. He is a source of great encouragement to all of us. It is in the fitness of things that such a distinguished person should inaugurate this seminar-cum-workshop.

Shri Jayant Rao Tilak:

Dear delegates, this regional seminar-cum-workshop should have been inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. As he had to rush to Delhi to attend to some important items of work not foreseen earlier, this responsibility has fallen on my shoulders.

It is my privilege to remain present among the delegates of grassroot level voluntary organisations of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. It is very appropriate that Pune has been selected for the meeting as a venue. Mahatma Gandhi has said that Pune has nursed the spirit of devotion and dedication among voluntary organisations. I am glad that this place has been chosen as the venue of this seminar-cum-workshop.

I have been watching the activities of PADI for the last two decades. I am sorry that money is proving to be the main criterion for assessing work by PADI. The main criterion should be the success of the scheme and the success of the voluntary organisation which implements the scheme. How much money was released and how much money has been spent should not be the be-all and end-all of project performance.

Voluntary Organisations have many constraints while implementing projects. One of the organisations I am associated with wanted to take up plantation on road sides. The programme required that the Gram Sevak should give no objection certificate. When we went to the Gram Sevak he informed us that permission of the Zila Parishad was required to plant on road sides. He did not explain that if we wanted to plant on road sides, Zila Parishad's permission would be required but if we could plant in the village areas, no such permission would be needed. Because the Gram Sevak did not suggest an easy way out, we had to give up our plantation programme. This is an example of government officials' approach. The attitude of the government officials needs to be changed.

I could give another example. One enthusiastic worker

wanted to take up massive plantation. He went to Forest Department Nursery. He was told that the Forest Department would give only 50 plants to one organisation. Why cannot the rules be changed to suit the actual needs ?

There is no elasticity in the approach of government officials. They are not among those who want to help villagers. They are not ready to initiate consultations with workers of voluntary organisations. They do not like to sit with them and understand their difficulties and find out the solutions. Because of this attitude they are unaware of the problems of voluntary organisations and also about the actual needs of the people. In such circumstances all problems depending on coordination with government officials are bound to fail.

Schemes should be supervised in the initial stages so that any defect in implementation is detected and corrected in time. I have had very bitter experiences of delayed action on the part of officials. One scheme with which I was connected was for six years. After six years one officer came and stated that the scheme was all wrong and that all the money given by the government to the organisation should be recovered. How can any voluntary organisation undo things which happened for six years and take out the money spent in the scheme ? Is it not a failure on the part of the government officials to sit for six years and allow things to drift ? Would it not have been more useful if they had organised periodical inspections to check up whether things are going on smoothly and to give timely guidance ?

Government should not think that villagers should go to them begging for help. It should be the other way round. Government should say "here is money, here we are to help you, if people come forward, we will stand by you".

Voluntary organisations have an important role to play in rural development. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has found that many voluntary organisations are running Krishi Vigyan Kendras very efficiently and has given them encouragement. Success of any programme depends on commitment and participa-

tion of the people. Voluntary organisations are best suited to provide commitment and generate people's participation. Such organisations should be encouraged. I am sure PADI will understand the contribution which voluntary organisations can make and take advantage of their resources.

Shri V. S. Page:

I am sure that the proceedings of this seminar would help in evolving suitable guidelines of action for voluntary organisations and Government in fulfilment of their task of developing rural India. Practically there is no conscious recognition of the role of voluntary organisations. Government has launched so many schemes of development but there is no single scheme which has been specially designed for voluntary organisations.

In one block I counted that 101 schemes of Government are operated but none gave attention to the real problems of the people. For instance, not one scheme attached importance to irrigation which is what is necessary to start. We can issue the parameters and guidelines from above, but the actual plan should be based on locally assessed needs and solutions.

We have heard much about people's participation. Voluntary agencies are the most ideal for bringing about people's participation. While drafting a scheme, special recognition should be given to voluntary organisations and the precise role they can play should be identified.

Shri Sharad Kulkarni:

PADI is till now functioning basically as GADI—Government's Action for Development (India). There must be an attitudinal change in government officials. If they want to treat us as partners we will accept. If they simply want to implement schemes through us, we will say no. We would like to frame schemes according to our priorities rather than follow Government's stereotypes. Whenever Government thinks of people's participation, it is like the farmer's idea of what the bullock should

do. Voluntary organisations are not prepared to function on that footing.

This seminar will discuss code of conduct. If voluntary organisations say that there is no rule applicable to them, it will not be correct. Voluntary organisations should also be accountable. Our accounts should be audited. We should accept certain legitimate limitations on our functions.

A number of stalwarts have come to this conference. They have put in long years of service. They did not start their work because money was available from PADI. Money by itself cannot achieve much unless there is an organised system of utilisation. I have some hope in PADI. I feel PADI is in the process of change. It is something between a voluntary organisation and a Government agency. Government will try to make it a Government agency. We should make it a public agency. Let us see who succeeds.

We have to give up hostility. We should be constructive while being critical.

Let us try to modify PADI. Let us make PADI a People's Action for Development.

Shri B. N. Nene:

I am happy to propose a vote of thanks. It is very nice of Shri Jayant Rao Tilak to have kindly agreed to inaugurate the seminar cum workshop. His valuable suggestions based on his experience of working in the voluntary agencies will help us in developing new insights as to how to bring about attitudinal changes in PADI. Shri Page is an authority on employment programmes and is one of the founding fathers of the Small Farmers Development Agencies programme. His experiences would guide this conference in having a critical look at development plans and in developing a methodology with which voluntary organisations can implement programmes. I am thankful for his participation. I also thank the President of the Session, Shri Sharad Kulkarni for his very constructive line of approach. Last but not the least,

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distinguished delegates of voluntary organisations of the western region who have come to participate in the conference deserve our heartfelt gratitude.

SESSION ON ROLE OF PADI IN PROMOTING VOLUNTARY EFFORTS

22.8.1985 : 12.00 Noon
Chairman : Shri S.R. Sathe

Shri Smarajit Ray:

I am glad to be in this seminar. I take this opportunity to give a brief background about PADI. In 1960, FAO launched a world wide campaign for fighting hunger through efforts supplementary to Government's efforts. Accordingly, Freedom From Hunger Campaign Committees were set up in several countries. In India also, a National Campaign Committee for Freedom From Hunger was set up in 1960. This was registered as a Society in 1970. Since 1973, this organisation has come to be known as People's Action for Development (India). Till 1980, PADI was under the control of Department of Agriculture. When it was found that it was no longer necessary to restrict PADI's field of activities only to agriculture, its control was transferred to Department of Rural Development. This gave a wider perspective to PADI which started covering the entire gamut of rural development. In its 25 years of existence, PADI has assisted 375 projects of voluntary organisations involving assistance of Rs. 26 crores.

From the beginning, PADI was looked upon as a good nodal agency for canalising foreign donations to the voluntary sector. In recent years, there has been a growing thinking in government that PADI should not be faced with the necessity to depend enti-

rely on foreign funds and that some thing should be done to reduce PADI's dependence on foreign donors. The Approach Paper to Seventh Plan has laid a great emphasis on the role of voluntary organisations in rural development. Government have been striving to implement the policy of the Planning Commission by providing funds to voluntary organisations through PADI. This would help in making PADI play a catalytic role to stimulate voluntary efforts. Government decided to involve voluntary organisations in the implementation of various Government Programmes like DWCRA, RLEGP, Drinking Water and Sanitation Programme etc. This plan to involve PADI as the medium for Government funding of voluntary organisations would also end PADI's dependence on foreign funds. A beginning was made in 1984-85 when Government transferred substantial funds to PADI to implement some Government schemes.

Over the years Government realised that just spending enormous funds for rural development does not necessarily ensure that desired results and benefits would come about. We must look at new ideas, we must initiate new, innovative thinking and we must adopt more imaginative approaches. Thousands of voluntary agencies are working in rural areas for decades. They have been doing pioneering work. They have brought about innovative and imaginative solutions to the problems of rural areas. In order to bring out innovative solutions to age-old rural problems, Government have decided to take the help of voluntary agencies. Government have realised that Government do not and cannot reach every corner of rural areas. The structure or organisation of Government institutions has brought about its own limitations. Government's procedures are also not flexible and imaginative. Small grassroot agencies working with people are in a better position to reach out to the remotest parts of the country for launching frontal attacks on the problems of our rural people, the problems of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, disease, etc.

Government have decided to use PADI for reaching out to voluntary agencies. What we now have to see is that PADI is trying to establish a bridge between itself and voluntary organisations. It wants to interact with them. It wants to establish

working relationships with a number of voluntary organisations. PADI wants to examine how to encourage flexibility and innovativeness in Government Schemes. Grassroot agencies can tell us what schemes of Government will fail and how to improve.

PADI is also thinking of persuading voluntary organisations to consider whether a nodal agency should be established. It can be a forum for voluntary agencies to air their views. Voluntary agencies are small groups working in isolation in rural areas. They have come up against local Government officials who are not always sympathetic. They are also sometimes harassed by powerful local caste leaders and people with influence. There should be a forum to which voluntary organisations can present their grievances. Instead of trying to tackle the bureaucracy on their own, voluntary organisations can approach the nodal agency to agitate on their behalf. The nodal agency can be a grievance body for the voluntary organisations. This will help small, weak and isolated voluntary organisations.

There is also another proposal that there should be a code of conduct for voluntary organisations. Naturally, this would not be imposed on voluntary organisations. It is for you to discuss freely and develop a common thought on this issue. In this seminar, code of conduct is one of the items to be discussed. On the basis of your views, a final view on this question will be evolved. There is one school of thought which feels that there is no need for a code of conduct. There is another school of thought which feels that there is a need. About the nodal organisation also, some feel that there is no need. Another feeling is that Government should not interfere in the matter and that there should be only a federation of voluntary organisations. It should be an elected body like the Bar Council. There is a feeling that a nodal organisation should be a self-disciplining body. It is necessary to discuss the various pros and cons of the issue and evolve a consensus.

We envisage a very important role for voluntary organisations. The role will increase in years to come. For the first time there will be a separate chapter in the Five Year Plan document on voluntary organisations. Government would like to have full

participation with voluntary organisations for tackling the problems of mass poverty. Government and voluntary organisations should work together, work as partners, so that we can reduce the incidence of rural poverty in a significant manner. This seminar brings face to face PADI and voluntary organisations and I am confident that its deliberations will create the right climate in which voluntary organisations can work in concert with the Government and Government assisted organisations.

Shri V.S. Page:

One of the subjects for discussions in this session is how to involve voluntary organisations in the implementation of Government schemes. For this it is necessary to modify the existing criteria of Government schemes to allow for voluntary organisations taking up the schemes. At present NREP and RLEGP provide for only the following to be the agencies for executing the schemes:

- i) Government
- ii) Panchayats, Zila Parishads and Municipal Corporations
- iii) Government dominated corporations

The instructions do not provide for voluntary organisations to participate.

Shri K.G. Limaye:

It is necessary to simplify procedures. Present procedures are cumbersome. If any Chartered Engineer certifies the soundness of a project, PADI should accept it without further scrutiny. PADI should keep a list of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Engineers and circulate it among all voluntary organisations. These Chartered Accountants and Chartered Engineers should be treated as those recognised by PADI. There are so many schemes but at the level of implementation things are far behind. Houses built by Government are not at all sufficient. Voluntary agencies can build better houses. Our prestige is this that we would like to be appreciated by people.

Shri Devidas Ghodeshwar:

At the district level there should be a cell which should discuss with voluntary organisations and help them in preparing projects. The criteria prescribed by PADI for assisting voluntary organisations are not satisfactory. For instance, criterion No. 6 says that the sponsoring organisation should have a sound financial base with capacity to generate resources to run projects on its own. This means that only organisations with lots of money of their own will be favoured by PADI. Criterion no. 7 says that the sponsoring organisation should have land, buildings, equipment and tools and similar assets. Criterion no. 8 says that the sponsoring organisation should have qualified technical, managerial, administrative and field staff. These criteria would not be fulfilled by grassroot organisations. These should be changed.

Shri R.K. Daw:

There has to be a consistent point of reference in PADI. Voluntary organisations should know who are the people in PADI with whom they have to deal. Frequent changes in the PADI set up should be avoided.

PADI should come face to face in contact with project applicants. This is the way foreign donors are dealing with organisations seeking their assistance. Basis of trust has to be created.

Voluntary organisations do not take their work in a schematic approach. Their work cannot be fitted into a straightjacket of any Government scheme. Voluntary agencies may not be able to send their schemes in a large format.

Shri Nirubhay Desai:

PADI should be the apex body of voluntary organisations. Government should recognise it as such. Voluntary organisations have a lot of expertise. We prepare projects, we prepare block

plans. Our expertise should be utilised by PADI. Once the accountability of an agency is established, Government should not insist on formats. PADI should give the task of project appraisal to voluntary organisations.

Inordinate delays occur in PADI before a project is sanctioned. Due to this, cost escalations take place. PADI should decide as to how much time it will take to sanction a project. There is a general erosion of faith in Government agencies. My advice will be not to come to PADI at all for any scheme.

Dr. G.C. Patel:

PADI cannot accept anything which a voluntary organisation writes on paper as a project. It has to do some scrutiny. At the same time I would also say that PADI has got a lot of scope for improvement.

Shri Arun Chavan:

There should be close cooperation between PADI and voluntary organisations. Our experience with PADI is not always good. We used to feel cut up. PADI wants us to be apolitical, not attached to politics. But before sanctioning schemes, PADI seems to be going into our equations with the political setup. With this attitude, how do you expect that we would cooperate? My organisation put up a proposal for construction of a village road. Cost was low. PADI objected on the ground that the cost estimates are too low. Is this a proper objection? All talk of establishing close contacts with voluntary organisations are due to the desire of Government to have greater control over voluntary organisations. Government's motivations are not at all innocent. I apprehend that they want to control us.

Shri Sharad Kulkarni:

There is no danger of our being controlled by Government or PADI. We will control Government and PADI.

Shri Smarajit Ray:

I would like to make it very clear that Government has no intention of controlling voluntary organisations. The entire value of voluntary organisations is that they are separate, different and distinct from Government and are capable of innovating. If Government coopts you, you will lose that special identity. It is not our intention.

Prof. V.N. Deshpande:

What is the most irritating procedure in PADI is that Minister's approval has to be taken for every project. In our case, the Minister shot our proposal down. PADI has two levels for approval of Government schemes, one, the technical level and the other is administrative level. The administrative level should not be stretched upto the Minister. Once the Screening Committee or Governing Council clears the project, there should be no further level of approval.

Shri T.C.A. Srinivasaramanujan:

I would like to clarify the present procedures in PADI. All projects are referred to State Governments for reporting on two points viz., whether the sponsoring organisation is administratively competent to implement the programme and whether the programme is technically feasible and does not represent duplication of any existing scheme. State Governments are given three months to make up their minds. If no reply is received in three months, clearance of State Government is presumed. Simultaneously, the project is processed by PADI. Projects involving assistance to PADI up to Rs 10 lakhs are approved by Standing Committee for Projects. Projects involving higher amounts of assistance are approved by Governing Council. After a project is duly approved by the Standing Committee for Projects or by Governing Council, clearance of Home Ministry is taken as to whether the sponsoring organisation is alright from the security point of view. In the case of projects assisted out of foreign funds, two more clearances, one from Department of Economic Affairs and another from

Ministry of External Affairs are taken. Beyond this, no other approval is taken for Projects involving PADI's assistance.

Shri Anand G. Pandey:

PADI rejected our project proposal without indicating the reasons. We submitted the schemes as per the guidelines of Government of India. Maharashtra Government did not support it. PADI's criteria for assisting projects should be unambiguous. Requirements of sound financial base and basic facilities have not been defined. What is the level of finances and facilities which a voluntary organisation should possess for being considered suitable for PADI's assistance ?

Shri M. Sagare:

For three years our project is pending. There has been innumerable correspondence and several times we recast the project. No worthwhile initiative has come from PADI. PADI should guide voluntary organisations in preparing projects but not just point out defects. The basic point for all voluntary agencies is that they want their projects to be approved and sanctioned.

Dr. (Mrs) Uma Vyas:

After the modification of 35 CC of Income Tax Act, funds for rural development have dried up. Our organisation was getting funds for one project from two sources viz., Government of United Kingdom and Indian Companies. The British funds are now coming through Ministry of Social Welfare. The company funds are coming from Ministry of Rural Development. The two Ministries have different formats. There should be one format for every Ministry. Having different formats means confusion. One faces lots of difficulties in dealing with these two sources of funds. Voluntary organisations do not have proper technical and professional help. It is necessary to train them on a regionwise basis. Training in accounting should also be given.

Prof. H.R. Ulemale:

How much money PADI has sanctioned to Maharashtra ? I apprehend that much money is being taken to other parts of the

country. Our institution submitted a project in 1978 for establishment of a fruit plant nursery. We were just told that the file is closed. When we asked for reasons we got another letter informing us that further correspondence will not be entertained. This is nothing but an ex-parte decision. At state level there should be a sanctioning committee of PADI. Standard proforma should be prescribed. Enquiries from Home Ministry should be discontinued. Grant procedures should be simplified. Matching contribution which is a hurdle should be discontinued. Voluntary agencies in each state should be identified and their specialities noted. Each voluntary agency should be allowed to take up projects within their specialisation. Overlapping should be avoided.

Shri B.N. Nene:

I think injustice has been done in the case of projects sent by Prof. Ulemale. Several officers visited the project. It was recast as per guidelines. It is pending with foreign donors. In the meantime, PADI has decided to close the matter once for all. I think it should be reopened

Shri Ashok Kumar Choudhry:

PADI should be a forum for voluntary agencies. It has certain limitations, but it should develop into a sound organisation.

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

The story of Government's desire to control voluntary organisations can be traced to our independence. One set of Gandhians came to power, and they wanted to contain the other set of Gandhians still continuing to do voluntary work. They created Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Through KVIC, they were able to contain a large number of voluntary agencies. Now what is the reason for asking for criteria of voluntary agencies? Voluntary agencies by definition are anti-establishment. Why does Government want relationship with

voluntary organisations? Our Government follows the Western model for development. In the Western model there is no place for rural development. Rural pauperisation is inevitable under the Western model. How does Government think that voluntary organisations can adopt faulty Government schemes? If PADI becomes another KVIC and Khadi and Village Board, it will only lead to waste of money, time and efforts.

Shri Sunit Bonde:

People's participation is wanting. Cooperation of voluntary organisations is not being taken as procedures are cumbersome. We got 60 acres of land from Government. But for getting benefits from Government, we have to approach Panchayats for certificates.

It is necessary to organise conference of voluntary agencies in each State and specialisations of each voluntary agency should be found out.

Leprosy work should be encouraged.

Shri B. N. Nene:

Regarding maintenance of accounts and audit, some voluntary organisations at the grassroots do not have sufficient resources to engage competent and qualified staff to do the work. PAD Maharashtra gives assistance to such organisations to enable them maintain their accounts properly. Secondly, voluntary workers sometimes do not have knowledge of English. They also do not have the ability to present projects in an acceptable form, even though their conceptions are very good. PAD Maharashtra gives technical assistance to voluntary organisations in this matter.

Shri Vasant Gangavane:

If we look at PADI as an agency coming to help voluntary organisations, then PADI should face no objection. Normally people go to PADI on their own initiative. Work is concentrated

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in their areas. But really work is needed in poor and neglected areas. In these areas, voluntary organisations should be encouraged. Promotional efforts to develop village level organisations should be organised. We should have voluntary workers' development programmes. In all Government programmes, specific provisions should be made for voluntary organisations.

Miss Maveen Soares:

Voluntary organisations are required to sign bonds while taking assistance from PADI. The bonds should impose equal responsibilities on both sides. They should not be in favour of PADI. It is necessary to modify the provisions of the bonds. Non-acceptance of audit statements by PADI for months creates difficulty. Once accounts are submitted to PADI, within 6 to 9 months accounts should be examined. If found in order, they should be accepted. If clarifications are needed, the objections should be communicated to the implementing agencies. PADI has some restrictions about meeting administrative cost beyond 15% of the total cost of the project. What is administrative cost has been left vague. The term administrative cost should be defined. Clearance from State Government is another requirement. There are some projects which cover more than one State. Such projects should be treated as national projects. State Government's clearance should be waived in their cases.

Shri Subhash Mendhapurkar:

The criterion prescribed by PADI that voluntary organisations should have sound financial base is not an undesirable requirement. There are some instances of voluntary organisations also misusing funds. There can be frauds. If we do not have the capacity we should not take a project.

Shri Mahadev Pandit:

Home Ministry's clearance is an irksome condition. It should be waived.

Shri Vivek Pandit:

PADI's criteria for assistance are discouraging new and small organisations. PADI wants to support only established organisations.

Shri S. V. Jadhav:

It should be necessary that voluntary organisations should observe strictly rules of financial discipline. I know some instances of voluntary organisations taking up several schemes but not submitting accounts in time. It will be proper if voluntary organisations streamline their accounting and reporting systems and conduct their affairs in such a way that there will be no room for any doubt about the functioning.

Dr. J. S. Patil:

Voluntary organisations do not have inter-project cooperation. Even within one district, voluntary organisations do not visit each other's projects. It is necessary to bring about mutual consultations among voluntary organisations. It is also necessary to identify suitable experts from voluntary organisations who can be used for project preparation and project appraisal. PADI should build up such experts from voluntary organisations.

Shri Smarajit Roy:

Government are also anxious that voluntary organisations should be encouraged to do consultancy work for other voluntary organisations.

Shri S. R. Sathe:

I am glad that discussions in this session centred around procedures in PADI relating to scrutiny and sanction of projects. One important point which emerged was that procedures in PADI should be simplified. Another important point which emerged was that PADI should not just object to projects on grounds that they are defectively prepared. PADI should guide the voluntary organisations in preparing the projects in a proper form. PADI should also encourage voluntary organisations to help each other in project preparation. They should be used as consultants.

Another point which has been brought out was that voluntary organisations should be engaged as consultants for project appraisal work also. If these suggestions are acted upon, the status of voluntary organisations would be enhanced. They will be able to play a larger role in rural development.

22-8-1985

2 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

The afternoon session on 22-8-1985 was devoted to discussions of various programmes by Groups. For this purpose, three Groups were formed :

Group	'A'	—	Socio-Economic Programmes
Group	'B'	—	Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme.
Group	'C'	—	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas.

The following is a summary of discussions by the Groups :

GROUP A

SCHEMES OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE RURAL POOR

Chairman : Dr. Kumar Saptarshi

Resource Person : Dr. D. Ramakrishnaiah

The Group arrived at a consensus in deciding the criteria for the schemes of the socio-economic development for the rural poor which should be adopted by PADI.

1. The schemes must have potential of income generation.
2. Income generated or the capital formed because of the implementation of the project should be equally distributed among beneficiaries.
3. The schemes must have potential to give a production boost in other fields. The schemes should have revolving impact on other aspects of life.
4. Alongwith income generation, social-cultural aspects should get consideration in the project. Unidimensional economic activities should not be encouraged.
5. Employment generation which will stop rural migration to urban areas should be the objective behind schemes.
6. Priority should be given to help income generation among socio-economically handicapped sections of the society.
7. The schemes must have potential of area development and environment conservation and improvement.
8. Projects converting waste into wealth should be adopted by PADI.
9. Schemes adopted by PADI should not be a copy of the Government schemes. There should be some innovativeness.
10. The products generated should have marketability in the future.
11. Transport facilities to the product centres should be built into projects. If any promoting agency submits project for making provision for transport facility e.g. a truck for taking products from primary centre to marketing place PADI should support the idea after ensuring that there is no other transport available in that village or in the project area.

12. Storage facility for perishable commodities if organised by some voluntary agency should be supported by PADI.
13. Every project must have some programme of social forestry.
14. Irrigation projects should get priority because water is one of the factors in income generation.
15. Matching contribution by the promoting agency should not be burdensome to that institution. Sponsoring organisations must have choice of having either economic contribution or man-power contribution.
16. Nutrition for children should be supported.
17. If some groups have programme of education on non-formal basis, which will be helpful for the poor people in solving their problem, such programmes should be financed by the PADI.
18. Assessment of the promoting agency should be done by a voluntary organisation working in that area.
19. PADI should prepare a list of the persons from different voluntary organisations and their help should be sought for assessing the project proposals. These expert persons will work on honorary basis.

Participants in Group A discussions:

1. Shri R. Pawar,
United Socio-Economic Development and
Research Programme Ltd.,
Pune.
2. Shri G.C. Patil,
Hon. Agriculture Adviser
Bhailal Amin Krishi Seva Trust,
Baroda.

3. Shri Yousuf Parkheti,
Juna Bazar,
Bharuch.
4. Shri V.R. Bhusari,
Secretary,
Marathwada Lok Seva Mandal (NANDED).
5. Shri T.G. Shinde,
Shri Shivaji Shikshan Prasarak Mandal,
Gaudgaon.
6. Rural Agriculture Institute,
Narayangaon.
7. Shri S.R. Sabnis,
Rural Agriculture Institute,
Narayangaon.
8. Shri T.R. Bachikar,
Kailas Trust,
Ellora.
9. M/s. Maveen Soares, Rural Communes Foundation,
10. Shri R.K. Patil,
Secretary,
MGE Society,
Buldana.
11. Shri R.V. Patankar,
Secretary,
Satyaniketan, Rajhor (Anangar Distt.).
12. Shri Vivek Pandit,
Managing Trustee,
Vidhayak Sansad.
13. Smt. Kalpana Solanki,
Trustee, Gram Pratishthan,
Pune.

14. Shri N.T. Gonte,
General Secretary,
Krishak Seva Sangh Keregavan,
Distt. Alnagar (Maharashtra).
15. Shri B.M. Shaikh,
Indian Society for Social Development and Research.
16. Shri Arun Chavan,
Verala Dev. Society,
Sangli-416416.
17. Shri Vinod Save,
National Institute of Rural Integrated Development,
Mahagaon (Kukade), Bolsar, Tal Palghat,
Distt. Thane.
18. Shri Muneer Alavi,
Rural Communes.
19. Shri Bal Kolekar,
Sharmjivi Janata Sahayak Mandal,
Rammder, Post Goshutwadi, T.I. Paton,
Distt. Satara.
20. Shri A.R. Mistry,
Yonaraya Development Society,
Tq. Paclra, Vadodhra,
Gujarat.
21. Shri S.M. Choudhary,
Satpuda Vikas Mandal, Pal
Tal. Raver, Distt. Jalgaon.
22. Shri Vasant Gangavane,
Gokul Prakalp Prashthan,
Pinguti, Kudal, Distt. Shindbudurg.

23. Shri Anil M. Kale,
Gramayan, 720/18, Navipeth,
Pune-30.
24. Shri N.R. Paranjpe,
Development Group,
2071, Yashodhan, Vijanagar,
Pune-411030.
25. Shri G.C. Agarwal,
Corporation Bank,
Bombay.
26. Dr. A.R. Patwardhan,
Arogya Dakshata Mandal,
Pune-30.
27. Fr. Joseph Idiaprunnel S.J.,
Rojpishla Social Service Society,
Rajpishla-Gujarat-393145.
28. Shri P.P. Limaye,
Shree Ballaleshwar Pratishthan,
1330, Shukravat,
Pune-2.
29. Shri S.D. Solanki,
Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram
202-203, Moollee Tola Bldg.,
504, Linking Road, Khar,
Bombay-400052.
30. Shri R. Mhatre,
Samudra Manthan Krishi Udyog Vikas,
Salav, Post Korlai, Raigad.
31. Shri Kondhalkar M.N.,
AFARM, 3-C, Shankarshet Road,
Pune-41102.

32. Shri Ramakant Ramchandra,
Centre for Tribal Conscientization,
Block 3, 41/5 Kavve Road, 411030.

GROUP B

- Topics :** i) Rural Landless Employment
Guarantee Programme
ii) Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme.

Chairman:

1. Mr. V.S. Page

Resource Person:

2. Prof. S. Ramachandran,
Joint Commissioner, PADI

Participants:

3. Principal M.S. Sagare,
YM College, Pune,
Bharatya Vidyapeeth,
Erandwane, Pune.
4. Shri P.V. Sheth,
Jagat Trading Co.,
137, Spectrum Community Centre
Near G.P.O. Ahmedabad.
5. Shri R.R. Malpani,
Nanded Tale & Distt. Nanded.
6. Shri K.A. Jagtap, Tuljapur—Narender Arya
Shiksenprasarak Mandal,
Taljapur Distt. Osmanabad.
7. Dr. V.N. Gurav,
Borjaiwadi Gram Vikas Mandal
(Distt. Satara).



Prayer song by Kumari Leena Sugandhi.



Dr. Jayant Patil introduces the Chief guest. Shri K. Rajan, Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra first on the left.



Chief guest, Shri Jayantrao Tidak addressing the Seminar-cum-Workshop.



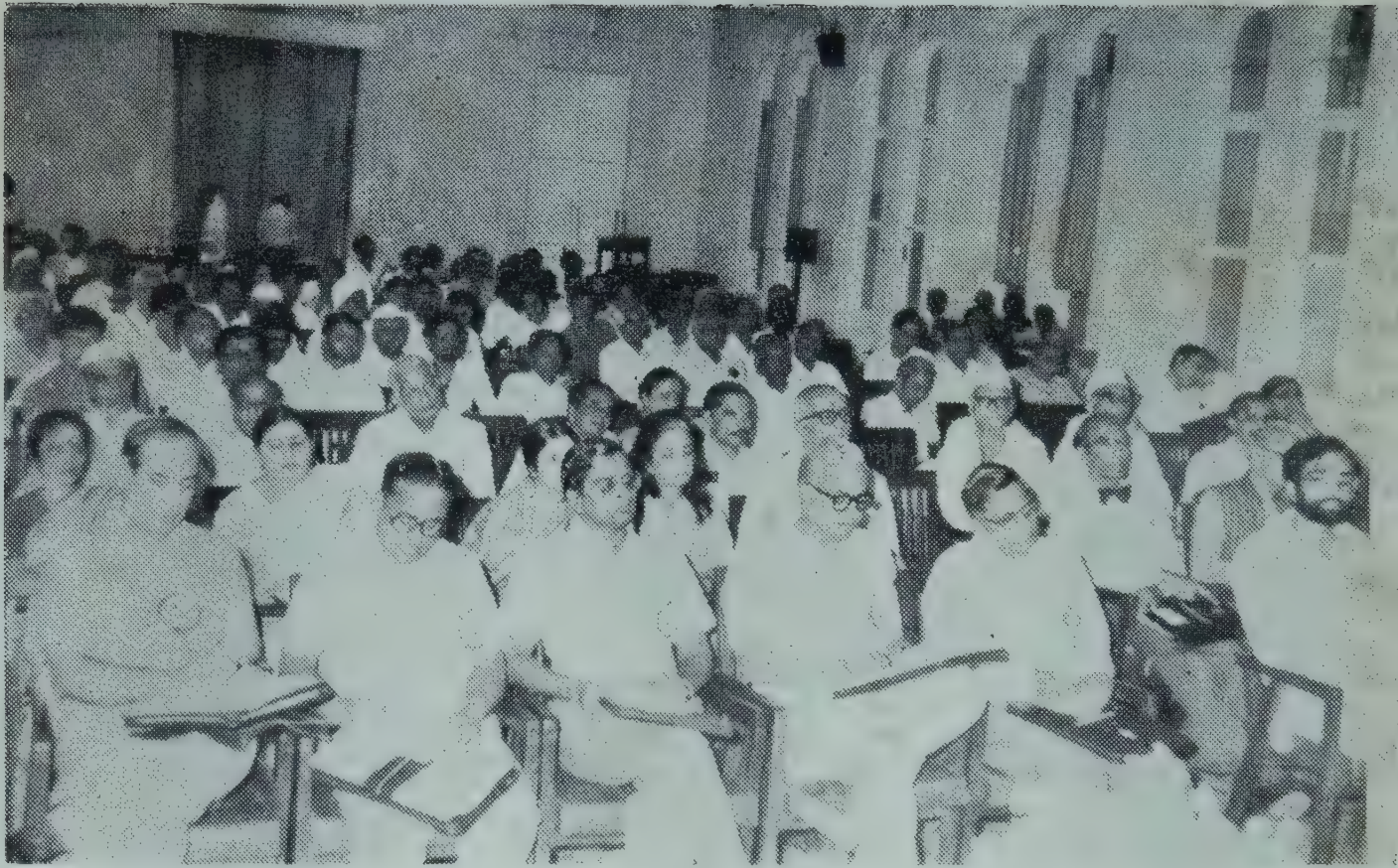
Shri Jayantrao Tidak with Shri T.C.A. Shrinivasaramanujan and Shri Sharad Kulkarni on the left and Shri V.S. Page and Shri Samarjit Ray on the right.



Shri T.C.A. Srinivasaramanujan addressing the inaugural session, Shri K. Rajan, Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra sitting second on the left.



Shri Sharad Kulkarni in the inaugural session



A view of the gathering.



Shri K. Rajan, Shri T.C.A. Srinivasaramanujan, Shri Sharad Kulkarni, Shri Jayantrao Tidak, Shri V.S. Page, Shri Smarajit Ray and Shri B.N. Nene from left to right.

8. Shri D. Ghosh,
Director, Institutes for Ecological Studies,
30 Altamount Bldg., (3rd Floor, Suite 5),
Bombay.
9. Shri Y.K. Mane,
Gadge Maharaj Ashram Shala,
Gondavala, Satana.
10. Shri Ashok Kumar K. Chaudhari,
Director (Planning),
Vedchhi Pradesh Seva Samiti,
Valod Distt., Surat.
11. Shri Ramesh L. Pawan,
PRIDE INDIA
Tal Mahad. Distt., Rajgad.
12. Shri Shrikant M. Navrekar,
Managing Director,
Centre for Biogas and Sanitation Studies,
Gangapur.
13. Shri Suresh P. Lakade,
C/o The BAIF, Kamadhenir,
Pune.
14. Shri D.V. Chaphalkar,
L.V.C. Taradgonvikas Trust,
Taradgaon.
15. Shri G.A.S. Patil,
Narottam Lalbhai Rural Development Fund.
16. I.N. Merger Hanse Seva Kutir.
17. Smt. Sarladevi Mazumdar
18. Shri Sudheer of Chaudhuri
Satpuda Vikas Mandal, Pal Distt.,
Jalgaon.

19. Shri G.G. Patil.
20. Shri Anand Kapoor,
Maharashtra Arogya Mandal,
Bhomashankar Project, P.O. Narodi,
Pune.
21. Shri G.M. Madok,
Sahyodri Vikas Mandal,
Khanpur, Taulk Vaveli,
Distt. Pune.
22. Shri Anand G. Pandey,
Nagpur Institute for Civil Preparedness,
Nagpur.
23. Shri Giriraj Singh,
Sarathi, P.O. Godhar West,
P.O. Godhara, Panchmanhali,
Gujarat.
24. Shri S. Chahaganlal Ahmedabadi,
Secretary, Gandhi Seva Sangh,
P.O. Hanasa, Khanada,
Gujarat.
25. Shri Raj Kumar Daw,
National Association of Water Resources
Development Agency,
3 Shankanshet Road,
Poona-411040.
26. Shri M.P. Babar,
Galawali Dongergaon,
Tel. Jangola Distt., Sholapur.
27. Dr. M.A. Ghare,
AFARM, 3-C, Shunkushet Road,
Pune-411042.
28. Shri D.L. Holikar,
Shayamlal, Education Society.

Group B took up the following programmes for discussion with Shri V. S. Page as Chairman:

- (i) Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme.
- (ii) Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Programme.

Twenty eight delegates participated in the discussions which are summarised below and recommendations placed at the end of this report.

At the outset, the Chairman, Shri V. S. Page, posed the question whether any single scheme under RLEGP was meant specially for voluntary organisations. The Group was unanimous in agreeing with him that schemes under RLEGP were not meant for voluntary organisations.

Shri V. S. Page:

State Governments are required to prepare projects for giving employment to landless people at 100 mandays per family for off seasons. The scheme was initiated in 1983 by the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi on 15.8.1983 and announced in Parliament. A budget provision of Rs. 400 crores was provided with 75% weightage being given to agricultural workers and marginal farmers in the State/UTs and 25% weightage being given to the incidence of poverty in each State/U.T.

Shri Raj Kumar Daw:

Probably the scheme did not envisage a role for voluntary agencies at all.

Shri V. S. Page:

This group should attempt to define a role for voluntary organisations in implementing the scheme.

Shri Giriraj Singh:

I do not see any possibility of voluntary agencies being able to implement schemes with only landless labour.

Shri V. S. Page:

Shri Giriraj Singh, although he is from Gujarat does not probably know that Gujarat adopted the scheme as Right to Work scheme. So far as Government of India is concerned, they have put no restrictions.

Shri Yakub Patil:

Construction of roads was put on the scheme first. But since road work is of a technical nature, it has been removed from the scope of voluntary organisations. If the organisation has trained staff, it can take up technical work like roads, land development etc.

Shri V. S. Page:

I do not think trained staff are available as Shri Patel believes. Yet it is possible to train people and if the training meets with the approval of the concerned authorities, voluntary organisations should be entrusted with work of a technical nature. In addition, Government of India should add the following schemes:

- (a) Well sinking for private persons especially small holders and community well sinking with the understanding that land under the well is surrendered to Government and ensuring that people use the wells.
- (b) Small lift irrigation schemes where the water can be given to irrigate (at least reasonably) less than 50 acres of land. Major portion of this land should be owned by small and marginal farmers.
- (c) House buildings according to approved pattern for persons below poverty line.

Shri Yakub Patil:

If wells are situated in someone's land, or lift irrigation scheme is installed, there should be a bond that the owner will allow small and marginal farmers to use the facility.

Shri V. S. Page:

Since this is a community project, this undertaking is implied.

Dr. M. A. Ghare:

There is no information about the success of RLEGP schemes.

Shri V. S. Page:

Government of India wants priority for the landless and this has led to slow implementation of RLEGP. We should be able to employ a marginal farmer but no landless labour should be left out.

Shri Giriraj Singh:

What if there is only one landless family in a village.

Prof. S. Ramachandran:

We should not raise hypothetical issues. Projects should be planned where landless labour is available and there is considerable scope for voluntary organisations to locate such communities.

Shri V. S. Page:

Agricultural labourer is defined as a person whose income from labour is more than 50% of total income. We should identify such people and see that no landless labourer is excluded.

Shri M. A. Ghare:

Under the works to be taken up under RLEGP, for land development, Government should include salty and marshy land along with waste land.

Shri V. S. Page:

That is a good idea and we should recommend this.

Shri Raj Kumar Daw:

When voluntary organisations have experts in soil conservation, this area should not be excluded from their scope.

Shri V. S. Page:

How can we decide whether they (the experts) have the prescribed knowledge for executing such works.

Shri Anand Kapoor:

I have spent 10 years in land development in India after receiving training in Israel. I think, I am sufficiently qualified for this type of work.

Shri Raj Kumar Daw:

I think the qualifications of experts of voluntary organisations are proved by the quality of their work and no further certification is necessary.

Shri V. S. Page:

If an expert in an organisation does not have a certificate then I must have the expertise to judge his expertise.

Shri Raj Kumar Daw:

You can ask PADI for bonafides.

Shri V. S. Page:

PADI cannot issue certificates.

Prof. S. Ramachandran:

PADI's recognition of the expertise in an organisation is implied when it sanctions its projects. But PADI can neither certify nor ask any other agency to certify to the expertise.

Shri M. A. Ghare:

The losers in this area are the voluntary organisations, if PADI does not recognise our qualifications.

Shri V. S. Page:

The aim should be to satisfy the Collector that the work is satisfactory.

Prof. S. Ramachandran:

PADI's Monitoring Cell can monitor the effectiveness of a project and PADI has sufficient monitoring experience which is being added on with every project. This monitoring experience will be extended to RLEGP.

Shri D. Ghosh:

Government of India has created a Wasteland Development Corporation. Will it be necessary for a voluntary organisation to clear its project through this corporation ?

Shri U. S. Page:

So far there are no such instructions.

Shri Modak:

In social forestry, Government has said we should use only gram panchayat land. If gram panchayat has no land, can institutional (voluntary organisation) land be considered for social forestry.

Shri V. S. Page:

Voluntary land should be taken up under this programme and such land should be treated on par with public land since beneficiaries are public. The land should be adequate and leased with a lease period of at least 30 years.

Shri Modak:

As plantation goes on cutting is also going on. Such actions should be penalised unless the deforesters plant at least 50 trees for every tree cut.

Shri V. S. Page:

I do not think we can discuss this here.

Dr. M. A. Ghare:

On drinking water supply, we have taken up a project in Avadan area including survey, drilling well-testing, correlation of data.

Shri V. S. Page:

We may recommend that the following work can also be taken up in drinking water supply schemes by voluntary organisations:

- (a) Survey
- (b) Drilling
- (c) Well testing
- (d) Hand pump installation
- (e) Power pump installation.

Dr. M. A. Ghare:

Voluntary organisations do not wish to work as contractors for Government in implementation.

Shri V. S. Page:

Since in the whole region, Government is the implementing agency, those voluntary agencies who show their willingness can be considered for implementing drinking water supply and projects. This includes PADI.

Dr. M. A. Ghare:

On sanitation projects, there should be emphasis on maintenance by the villagers.

Shri V. S. Page:

Voluntary organisations should give training to suitable villagers in maintaining the pumps.

Dr. M. A. Ghare:

Government should not recover any money for maintenance if they do not adequately maintain hand pumps. Now they recover Rs. 300.00 per pump at the time of grant. Periodic chlorination of wells should be made compulsory.

Shri V. S. Page:

We now have to discuss sanitation. When we arrange for water, we should provide gutters and drains and soakpits. People need to be trained in maintaining soakpits. Dunghills should be removed and clearing should be constant. Sanitary latrines should be universally installed. Tamil Nadu has a village self-sufficiency scheme with 9 items and Maharashtra also has adopted this for 7 items. Community latrines head this list. We should recommend that in every village while developing drinking water supply, we should also provide:

- (a) gutters on both sides of the readymade cement, stone type or open type.
- (b) Soakpits.
- (c) Sanitary latrines of various types
(Sulabh type of UNDP)
- (d) Public urinals near schools.
- (e) Removal of dunghills.
- (f) Waste water for kitchen gardening.
- (g) Smokeless chulhas.

Prof. Ramachandran:

PADI has already been sanctioning projects in which the UNDP design of pour-flush is employed. PADI can send the copies of this design to voluntary organisations who can prepare schemes based on these designs on behalf of all of you. I thank Shri V. S. Page for successfully chairing this session.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF GROUP 'B'

A. Rural Land Employment Guarantee Project:

The Group recommended that those voluntary agencies which have the required technical expertise to take up land development and reclamation should be entrusted with this work. A number of voluntary agencies have been doing this type of work already and the Group recommended that Government should not exclude such agencies from doing this type of work.

2. The Group recommended that construction/renovation of field channels being not of a technical nature should be entrusted to the voluntary agencies also.

3. The Group recommended that Government to include salty and marshy land along with waste land for development and reclamation under RLEGP.

4. The Group recommended that the following additional works should be brought under RLEGP.

(a) well-sinking—including well sinking on private land and small lift irrigation schemes where the water can be given to irrigate crops upto 50 acres of land with small lift, provided the major portion of the private lands are owned by small and marginal farmers.

(b) House building according to the approved pattern for persons below poverty line :

In both (a) & (b) the wage component should be above 500.

C. Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes:

(a) The Group considered the scope for employing voluntary organisations in drinking water supply schemes and recommended that the following also are included in the drinking water supply scheme.

(a) Survey (b) Drilling (c) Well testing (d) Hand pump installation and (e) Power Pump installation.

2. The Group recommended that chlorination of wells should be done periodically and should be made compulsory. Dr. Patwardhan suggested that there are two ways of making water safe for drinking.

1. By biological way i.e. by using fish, frogs etc. for cleaning the water.

2. By chemical methods.

3. The Group recommended that along with water supply, the following sanitation and hygiene schemes also should be entrusted to the voluntary agencies.

(a) Gutters on both sides of

- (i) Ready made cement,
- (ii) Built up stone,
- (iii) Open type.

(b) Soakpits.

(c) Sanitary latrines of various types (Sulabh, V.I.P., UNDP, etc.).

(d) Public urinals near public schools and colleges.

(e) Removal of dunghills.

(f) Improved cattlesheds.

(g) Diversion of waste water for kitchen garden and

(h) Smokeless chulahas.

The Group recommended that the following conditions when RLEGP work is entrusted to the voluntary agencies should be followed:

They should not do it by giving a contract to some other agency. They should do it directly along with other requirements laid down by PADI:

They should give employment preferably to the landless only. At least they should be given the highest priority. They should abide by the wage structure laid down by the Government and arrange for welfare as directed by the Government.

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They should get some service charges of about 10% levied on them.

GROUP 'C'

'Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas' Programme'

Chair Person—Smt. Indu Tilak

Resource Person – Dr. Zafar Ali

The Group was attended by 23 delegates representing different voluntary organisations. The members were given a background of the programme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas and the guidelines in preparing viable project proposals for such a programme. Necessary feedback and information inputs were provided by Shri S. Ray, Joint Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of India. It was explained to the delegates that the programme entails certain conditions while preparing a project proposal on DWCRA. These are :

(i) The DWCRA project proposal must relate only to economic activities or income generating programmes for the rural women.

(ii) The women beneficiaries must be identified from persons below poverty line. For identifying the women under poverty line, the present criteria of selecting families whose gross annual income of Rs. 3500/- from all sources should be adhered to. These beneficiaries must be selected from the list of IRDP beneficiaries proposed by DRDA or Development office.

(iii) The women beneficiaries must be organised into groups. Economic programmes should be selected according to the needs of

each group. Although the number of groups to be formed and the number of women in each group under one project are not prescribed, a project may have more than one group and the women beneficiaries may be 12-20 in each group under each project.

(iv) The DWCRA programme may be taken up in any area in the country.

The Group accepted that the beneficiaries must be selected from among persons below poverty line. However, they expressed difficulty in getting the list of beneficiaries from DRDA as in many cases such lists are either not available with the DRDA or, if available, they are not complete. In many cases, the Government agencies do not cooperate in providing such lists. In view of the difficulty, the members felt that PADI should rely on the list of beneficiaries prepared by the voluntary organisations or PADI can verify their lists by spot checking.

The Group felt that no encouragement should be given to families where heads of the families consumed a larger part of the daily income in drinking.

Among the economic programmes, innovative schemes should be preferred instead of conventional schemes like 'Papad Making', 'Pickle Making' etc. Such economic programmes should bring out such products which have easy and acceptable market consumption. Examples were cited of dairy and dairy products, ornamental candles, chalk making for schools, broom stick making, etc.

The Group agreed that since market was an important component of women's development programme, skill training and production efforts must have direct and effective linkage with marketing. It is, therefore, necessary that unless a product has assured marketing facility in and around the areas, the project so mooted will be a non-viable economic entity. Market survey is, therefore, necessary before the type of economic programme to be taken up in the project is decided. Economic activity must unfailingly be linked with marketability.

It was agreed upon by the Group that group criterion is necessary in the programme as skill development is more effective on group basis. Besides, group approach provides greater strength to the beneficiaries, standard production and market bargaining.

Production-oriented activities must have greater freedom and feasibility of choice. Even if at a certain stage, the voluntary organisation feels that a particular economic activity has developed greater consumptive potentiality and wants to take it up by replacing the activity envisaged in the project without affecting the financial equilibrium, PADI must agree to this change. It was also felt by the Group that economic activity could be chosen from any programme as long as it is feasible and income generating and potentially market oriented.

For strengthening the market effectiveness of local produce, it was felt that there should be direct linkage of the producers with the consumers without adopting to middlemen channel of bargaining. It was also felt that if more production centres are functioning in a particular area, co-operative marketing societies or regional co-operative marketing may be considered as a possible channel for marketing of local produce.

The Group felt that once the project proposals are accepted by the competent committee of PADI, it should not take more than one month's time by PADI in sanctioning them. The clearance of the project proposals on DW CRA by the concerned State Governments, keeping a wait for 3 months was not favoured. However, PADI may keep the concerned State Government simply informed about the sanctioning of the project proposal. Similarly, reference to Ministry of Home Affairs on the bonafides of voluntary organisation dealing with women's programmes was not favoured.

Members Comprising Group 'C'

Name

Organisation

1. Shri Jatar S.N.

Deputy Secretary,
R.D.O. Govt. of Maharashtra.

2. Shri Jagtap N.N. Officer on Special Duty (Planning);
Dy. Commissioner,
Pune Division, Pune.
3. Shri Vora C.M. Sharadagram
4. Shri Bonde S.D. Satpuda Vikas Mandal
PA-2.
5. Smt. Nancy Gaikwad Jagrut Bhaubondhi,
Sangatana.
6. Smt. Meena Pawar Vanasthali, R.D.C.
7. Smt. Nirmala Purandare Vanasthali Rural
Development Centre.
8. Shri Janardan Shree Shivaji Shikshan
Ghanasham Lohokara Prasarak Mandal, Gaudgaon,
Taluka Barshi, Distt. Solapur.
9. Shri Shamrao Shree Chattarapati
Vishawanathrao Shikshan Sanstha, Latur.
Jadav
10. Smt. Vijaya Farahmand New Era, Rural Development
Project, Panchgani,
Distt. Satara.
11. Shri K.M. Agawane Maharashtra Arogya
Mandal, Project Officer,
Hadapsar, Pune-28.
12. Smt. Indu Tilak 568, Narayan Peth,
Pune-30.
President,
Mahila Sahakari Udyogalaya,

13. Smt. Jahnavi B. Upadhyay President of District.
Mahila Mandal, Junagadh
(Gujarat).
14. Miss Bina Bhatt Voluntary Worker,
Junagadh (Gujarat).
15. Dr. (Mrs) Uma Vyas Secretary-Chief Executive,
Tribhuvandas Foundation,
Anand-388001,
Gujarat.
16. Smt. H. Bedi Managing Trustee,
Development Support Team,
124/11, Yerandwana,
Pune-41004,
Maharashtra.
17. Prof. Kamal Adhav Rural-Development Centre,
S.D.S.M. College,
Palghar, Distt. Thana.
18. Shri Raosaheb Jagtap Advocate,
Tuljapur,
District Osmanabad.
19. Shri S.L. Nazare D. P.R.I.D.E.—INDIA,
Mahad, District Raigad.
20. Shri E.R.D. D'Souza Lalbhai Group Rural
Development Fund,
Arvind Mills Premises,
Naroda Road,
Ahmedabad-380025.
21. Shri N.N. Jagtap Officer on Special Duty
(Planning), Divisional Commission-
er Office, Pune Dn., Pune-411001.
T. No. 62643 (O)
T. No. 440162 (R)

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 22. Shri S.N. Jatar | Dy. Secretary, Rural Development Deptt. Mantralaya, Bombay-32.
T.No. 2025349 (B) |
| 23. Shri S. Ray | Jt. Secretary, Deptt. of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, New Delhi. |
| 24. Dr. Z. Ali | PADI, New Delhi. |

SESSION ON NODAL ORGANISATION AND CODE OF CONDUCT

23.8.1985

9 A.M.

Chairman—Shri Nirubhay Desai

Shri Devidas Ghodeswar:

The first issue to be discussed is whether there is a need for a nodal organisation. My answer is that it is needed. It will bring about coordination between different organisations. It will also solve problems. Such an organisation should only be a federation of voluntary organisations. Otherwise, it will lead to nationalisation of voluntary organisations. The proposal has been thought of in order to bring about Government's control over voluntary agencies. If the nodal agency is to function for the interest of the voluntary organisations, it should play the role of a friend, philosopher and guide. There should be no nomination of persons on the nodal agency. It should be constituted only through the democratic process. All problems of voluntary organisations are created by the Government machinery. If Government itself nominates the members of the nodal organisation, how such an organisation can solve the problems of the voluntary agencies?

The apex body should have only voluntary organisations as members. There should be no comparison with Press Council and Bar Council. Voluntary agencies are heterogeneous. They do not represent a homogeneous group like journalists or lawyers. There is an attempt to define voluntary agencies. There is no need for this. We have already defined our respective organisations in our constitutions. What is the need to redefine voluntary agencies? If there is a definition, it will exclude many. The talk of code of conduct is insulting. The bye-laws and constitution of voluntary organisations give the code of conduct for them.

Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Vyas:

We have to come together and complement each other. There is a need for a nodal organisation. Its main role should be co-ordination.

Shri R.K. Daw:

There should be a unanimous rejection of the proposal to set up a nodal organisation and to frame a code of conduct. The composition of the Committee to make proposals in this matter is lopsided. Three members from Social Work and Research Centre and three from AFPRO and three from PADI are represented on the Committee. This can hardly be described as a representative body.

Smt. Nancy Gaikwad:

Voluntary agencies are numerous. They are doing numerous kinds of work. Apex body should be a clearing house for information. It should be a Documentation Centre. We need such a nodal agency.

Shri Sharad Kulkarni:

The apex body which is being envisaged is only for organisations which want to participate in Government schemes. It will be a forum through which voluntary organisations can get things done. Government procedures like the need to submit certificates,

the requirement to get clearances etc. are already applicable to voluntary organisations seeking assistance from Government. What is wrong if voluntary organisations deal through one single organisation to get over procedural requirements? The apex body can also give protection to voluntary organisations against harassment. It is not the intention that there should be only one body. There can be several apex bodies as required.

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

Voluntary agencies by definition consist of sensitive people. The exception being taken to the proposal to establish an apex body has to be viewed in this light. Voluntary agencies need not fear that there should be greater control by Government if an apex body is formed. Already Government looms large at every stage. Regarding exclusion of politicians from voluntary bodies, I do not think that there is any need to do so. If you de-politicise, people will become pro-establishment. I welcome the formation of an apex body as it will provide a forum for interaction between voluntary agencies.

Shri Vivek Pandit:

There is a need for an apex body. But Government should not form the National Council. It should be formed by voluntary agencies as a federation. The National Council should take up issues affecting voluntary organisations. I know a case in which a voluntary organisation had to seek Government's permission. It faced a lot of difficulties. There is lot of harassment which voluntary agencies undergo. Government should frame a Code of Conduct for itself to deal with voluntary agencies.

Shri Prabhakar Limaye:

Government is trying to change its attitude towards voluntary agencies. Let us appreciate it. Let us not question the bonafides of Government. There is a need for apex body. There is political, identical and social untouchability in our society. The apex body should remove these forms of untouchability. It should help

in creating a conducive climate for voluntary agencies to work. There should not be discrimination based on political, ideological and social differences. Communication is essential to enlighten voluntary agencies. There should be exchange of views. Duplication of activities should be avoided. The apex body can be a discussion forum. Voluntary agencies work with people. They echo the voice of people. The apex body can reflect people's voice to us.

Prof. Kamal Adhav:

Apex body is needed. Representation of voluntary agencies from each state should be ensured. Two or three voluntary agencies from each State should be on the apex body. PADI and Government should also be represented. It should not be formed under any Act. It should be voluntarily formed. The apex body should study and review rural programmes.

Ms. Maveen Soares:

There is a need for a nodal agency. The purpose should be very clear. It should be set up to help small groups which are working in rural areas and which do not have any crutch, umbrella or platform. The nodal agency should protect them. Working in isolation will not help the voluntary agencies. The apex body can take up common issues. It should not be a regulatory body. Its job should not be to bring restrictions on the voluntary bodies or to discipline them. It should not try to interfere in the working of voluntary agencies. I am not happy to see that this nodal organisation is coming from the top. It should have representation of all States.

Shri Shantibhai Solanki:

Whether voluntary agencies will have an apex body or not will be a decision which voluntary agencies will make. PADI seem to have gone too far. We cannot have a nodal agency at the direction of PADI. We will have it if we want it. Each voluntary agency will work independently. There should be no institutional

arrangements which will bring about hard and fast rules for voluntary agencies.

Dr. G.C. Parikh:

I share the anxiety of those who feel that there should be no discussion about nodal agency or Code of Conduct. I share their feeling that PADI has gone too far. I feel that their apprehensions are due to nervousness. PADI has not committed any crime in preparing the paper. It has given only some suggestions. There is a need for a nodal body. For a very very long time, the adversary model of development has come to stay. There is no reason to stop dialogue between voluntary agencies and Government. There should be interaction between them. Voluntary agencies can function only if there is cooperation with Government and also cooperation among themselves. Nodal organisations can create a climate for such interaction.

Shri Anand G. Pandey:

There are many national and regional level nodal organisations. They are discharging precisely the same functions which the proposed nodal agency is expected to perform. These existing organisations should be given due regard.

Shri Arun Chavan:

I support the idea of forming a nodal agency. It should be completely voluntary. If it is formed by PADI that would be the thin end of the wedge for Government control.

Shri V.R. Bhusari:

PADI has no business to organise a nodal organisation. We are free agents. We are voluntary. Government wants to come near us and restrict our functions.

Shri K.N. Deshmukh:

Voluntary agencies should be allowed to work according to their free will. There should be no interference in their working.

If a federation is to be formed, it should be an elected body of voluntary agencies. If the federation is formed by imposing from above, it will not be proper. The intention appears to be to place a Minister or Minister of State or a non-elected politician incharge of the nodal agency. Such a move should be opposed.

Shri S.L. Nazarath:

Science and technology is vital for development. Voluntary organisations should exploit the opportunity of availing Government's resources for promoting science and technology. This can be done through the apex body.

PADI should have done a lot of exercise before holding this conference. It should have held more discussions.

Shri K.G. Limaye:

We need not be afraid of Government. When we take donations from foreign countries they put many conditions. If we accept the conditions, they give funds. We have no objection when foreign agencies put conditions on us. But whenever there is a talk of Government, we overact. Government wants to co-operate with us in order to usher in development. After all it is our own Government. I do not deny that there are difficulties when dealing with Government. Let us not fear that they will dominate us. We should not reject if help comes to us. PADI and PAD Maharashtra should form nodal organisations in each State. Then there should be a zonal organisation. At the national level, there will be one national organisation. There will be many advantages of apex bodies. There are people who want to work but do not know how to start the work and do not know whom to approach. Such people can be helped by the apex bodies.

Dr. G.C. Patel:

We talk of our proposals not being agreed to on political grounds. If there is a national body we can present our grievances. Many activities of voluntary agencies are unknown to other agencies. If there is a directory or newsletter, information about

various voluntary agencies can percolate. The apex body can do this. It will help others to start work for the first time. The national body need not have direct control. It can assist us. We need not be afraid of domination. Apex body should bolster voluntarism. We need not object to PADI's bringing an agenda item on this matter. PADI has given a working paper to stimulate discussion. I think we should have an open mind. PADI has its own limitations. This type of apex body working independently can perhaps help PADI also. Let us start an organisation for voluntary agencies.

Shri S.R. Sabnis:

The nodal body should be a helping body not a controlling body. It should be a federation like cooperatives. It should prepare specific income generating viable projects for being adopted by voluntary agencies.

Shri Ashok Kumar Chaudhury:

Apex body is essential. Its purposes, objectives and directive principles should be clear cut. It should look into issues concerning voluntary agencies.

Shri M.D. Shewale:

There is a need for an apex body. Developed voluntary agencies are afraid that there will be check on their work, but small and weaker voluntary agencies require support and encouragement.

Prof. H.B. Ulemale:

That Government is the best which governs the least. Government wants to control everything. Let there be a nodal organisation by all means. But it should be a federation, democratically elected, cooperative like. There should be no Act to constitute it.

Dr. R.V. Patankar:

There should be an apex organisation of project holders. It should be an association of all voluntary agencies engaged in rural

development in association with Government. It should be a federation.

Shri B. N. Nene:

Some voluntary agencies are strong and financially sound. There are others which are village based and which need Government help. They also need guidance from various voluntary agencies. Many voluntary agencies have made innovative programmes. Their activities are required to be propagated among all voluntary agencies. If we have a nodal organisation, it can disseminate all relevant information among voluntary agencies. This will help small organisations. The provisions of 35CC of Income Tax Act are not known to many voluntary agencies. PAD Maharashtra took the initiative in circulating information among voluntary agencies. This proved very useful. Thus, there are many matters in which an apex body can be of assistance to small voluntary agencies. There is an impression that the move to have an apex body has been initiated by Government of India and PADI. This is not correct. The move has been initiated by voluntary agencies. There was a seminar of voluntary agencies held in January 1985 at India International Centre which recommended the formation of an apex body. The agenda papers indicated that the idea has been favoured by many voluntary agencies.

Dr. Vasudevan Nair:

There is a danger of Government control of voluntary agencies. Voluntary agencies are the only media through which democratic planning can be done. In every programme, the crucial questions are: who decides the target population? Who decides the guidelines? Who allocated resources? Are there any countervailing measures where a local population can have its say? Among all the implementing agencies of development programmes, only voluntary agencies can answer these questions. That it is people who decide all key issues. Nothing should be done to stifle the free functioning of voluntary agencies. However, a nodal agency of voluntary organisations can do many constructive

things. It can tap the power of youths, train them, organise them and guide them.

Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Vyas:

How can grassroot organisations at village level contact organisations at Delhi ? How will they be approaching a Delhi based organisation for their day today problems ? Will the nodal agency be responsible to receive all complaints from voluntary agencies ?

Shri Giriraj Singh:

There is a strong need for a nodal agency. Voluntary agencies face many problems. All organisations cannot go to courts with their grievances. The nodal agency can fight out and provide relief to voluntary agencies.

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

The nodal organisation should have sufficient representation of voluntary agencies.

Shri Subhash Mendhapurkar:

All voluntary agencies are registered under Societies Registration Act, 1960 but under the same Act, organisations like the Wrestlers' Clubs, Lions' Clubs, Blind Relief Associations etc. are also registered. There is no separate law under which voluntary agencies working in the field of development are alone registered. That is why we should have a nodal agency. Voluntary agencies face harassment at the hands of Gram Sewaks, Patwaris, Tehsildars, Policemen etc. Who will take action ? Thousands and thousands of voluntary organisations do need protection. So far as code of conduct is concerned. I am of the view that it cannot be imposed upon the voluntary organisations.

Shri Devidas Ghodeswar:

Some voluntary organisations work in the field of rural development only. Some take up both rural development and urban

development. We should not divide them by defining rural voluntary agencies. Protective agency is needed for activist groups. But no legal sanction is needed for the protective agency. Without legal sanction also, it can protect. So far as code of conduct is concerned, funding agencies can put conditions and rules for taking grants. Each time a grant is received, the conditions will apply. There is no need for a general Code of Conduct. Voluntary agencies are ideologically different. They are independent. No attempt should be made to bind them now. Code of Conduct conveys sinister meaning.

Shri V. S. Page:

Voluntary agencies must remain voluntary.

Shri Subhash Mendhapurkar:

There are instances when Government sends a peremptory letter to local officials not to cooperate with a particular voluntary agency. Such an abrupt letter completely dislocates the work of the voluntary agency. Should that voluntary agency not have recourse of some nodal organisation where it can represent its grievances ?

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

Code of Conduct is very insulting. We should delete it.

Shri Nirbhai Desai:

Discussions during this session were very lively. The majority of participants agreed that there should be a nodal organisation. The other part of the proposal is about who should initiate formation of the nodal organisation. Most felt that it should come from voluntary agencies themselves. It was generally felt that the nodal organisation should have the basic objective of helping voluntary organisations. When the cooperative federation was formed in Gujarat, there was initial objection. Prof. Raj Krishna, the then Member, Planning Commission, during his visit to Gujarat, strongly recommended that there should be a nodal organisation for voluntary agencies. Funding agencies wanted the

same. They were chary of dealing with a multiplicity of organisations. We formed a federation of voluntary agencies. We have 310 members. The federation is working well. There is talk about excluding politicians. We do not want de-politicisation. We want our federation to be apolitical. We take up rural development. There should be federation of Gujarat type in all States. There can be a national federation of such State federations.

Shri T.C.A. Srinivasaramanujan:

I am grateful to various members for expressing their views on the subject for establishment of a nodal organisation for voluntary agencies and also on the subject of code of conduct. There appears to be a lurking feeling among some members that Government is interested in foisting among voluntary organisations a Government-controlled Central body which will regulate the voluntary organisations, discipline them, stifle their functioning, interfere in their working and use them as its handmaid. This is clearly a misconception. The entire idea is that the thousands of voluntary agencies of varying sizes have many problems in their working. The majority of voluntary organisations depend on local Government officers for subsidies and grants. They apply to Electricity Board for power connections, Civil supply authorities for cement, foodgrains or sugar, They will deal with Transport authorities for diesel and fuel. They go to law and authorities for protection. If they do not get relief they want from Government functionaries, either they can fight out the matter on their own, or they can represent their cases before some authority. Just as Government functionaries hinder the work of voluntary organisations, banks by refusing to give loans, panchayats and zila parishads by refusing to allow them to work on public properties like public land, roads or water resources, Electricity authorities refusing electric connections can also place obstacles in the working of voluntary agencies. Our idea is that voluntary agencies should have a reference body to which they can turn in times of trouble and if that reference body has sufficient teeth, it can redress their grievances.

Similarly voluntary agencies should also observe certain

norms of accountability. The fabric of public life will be very badly loosened if any section of society considers itself above all rules and regulations, beyond the scope of law and completely independent of all obligations. Funds can be misused, assets of the organisation can be used for the personal benefit of friends and relations of the people who control the organisation, the activities of an organisation can be used for purposes which will be detrimental to the interests of the society and nation. Is it proper on the part of voluntary organisations to say that since they are independent and autonomous, nobody should question them about how they use their funds, how they distribute benefits, how they use the assets of their organisation and how they conduct their activities in spheres impinging on larger social and national issues. If no organisation which owes its existence to Government can be regulated, their business houses, companies, trade unions, cooperatives and various other pluralistic groups in the country can also claim similar immunity. The larger interests of voluntary organisations themselves demand that for the actions of a few black sheep among them, the entire sector should not come under a cloud. It was, therefore, thought that there should be a nodal agency which should enforce norms of accountability on voluntary agencies. It is not sufficient to say that the Acts under which voluntary organisations are registered themselves provide for observance of certain norms. The question is who is going to enforce the observance of these norms and take action against violations. In spite of the statutory provisions, many voluntary organisations do not have their accounts audited regularly, do not convene annual meeting, do not organise elections of office bearers, do not submit their reports and returns and utilisation certificates to funding agencies and do not follow laws governing their specific activities. Should we insist that each violation should be tackled by the concerned punitive authorities? Is it wrong to have some institutional arrangement by which reports of such violations should be entertained and after due hearing of the voluntary organisation, it is asked to correct itself? If we are allergic to such an enforcement authority, it may be due to the fear that the enforcement authority may overstep its limits and try to use its powers to control voluntary organisations. If that is the reason, the law relating to the establishment of a nodal

organisation can provide sufficient safeguards against misuse of its authority. But if the objection is due to the feeling that voluntary organisations should not be subjected to any discipline and norms, I do not think that such a view can be supported.

The proposal put up before the conference envisages, establishment of a nodal agency for the twin purpose of functioning as a grievance-redressal body and as an authority to ensure adherence by voluntary organisations to certain norms of conduct.

There has been criticism that PADI is trying to initiate action in the matter. What PADI did was only to collect the views of different persons on the subject and present them before the conference for a discussion. PADI's job is that of a compiler of views. PADI is neither reflecting its views or Government's views. If you think there should be a nodal body, you can have it. If you do not think that there is a need for nodal body, you need not have it. There should not be any room for apprehension that Government and PADI have any ulterior motivation behind this agenda item.

About Code of Conduct also, there have been sensitive reactions. No section of society should object to a Code of Conduct. There is Code of Conduct for Government servants, there is Code of Conduct for political parties. There is a Code of Conduct for lawyers and there is now a talk of Code of Conduct for judges also. The Press Council has been charged with the task of framing a Code of Conduct for journalists. Can voluntary organisations say that they do not need any Code of Conduct for them? Is it because that they are convinced that none in their ranks has any fault and that there is no need to regulate their functions?

I feel that the real discussions should not be on whether there should be a Code of Conduct or not but on the question who should frame the Code of Conduct and what should be its contents. There is no question whatsoever of Government or PADI framing the Code of Conduct and trying to impose it on voluntary agencies. We should urge voluntary organisations to frame their own Code of Conduct and keep it as a touchstone

against which their conduct can be judged by people at large. The agenda papers have only compiled the suggestions of various groups on this subject.

To sum up, I find that this conference has agreed on only thing, namely, that there should be a nodal organisation. The conference has set itself firmly against any statutory framework for this nodal organisation. It is also against giving any powers to this nodal organisation to enforce norms of conduct on voluntary agencies. The consensus of views is that the nodal organisation should be a voluntary grouping of voluntary agencies on a federation basis and that its only function is to disseminate information among voluntary agencies. It can be a lobby for voluntary agencies and it can take up their problems, without any legal sanction. The conference was also against framing any Code of Conduct. These views of the conference will be incorporated in future agenda papers on this matter.

CONCLUDING SESSION

23.8.1985

2.30 P.M.—5 P.M.

GROUP 'A'

Chairman—Dr. Kumar Saptarshi

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

I am happy to present the report of Group 'A'. 42 participants attended the discussions. Out of these 22 participants made suggestions.

Group 'A' was concerned about social-economic development schemes. The main recommendations have already been presented. I now invite discussions.

Shri Subhash Mendhapurkar:

Products of villagers have no chance of competing with products of multi-nationals. Soap, washing powder and similar

products are made by village groups but they enjoy no protection in the market. There should be a separate taxonomy for voluntary organisation.

Shri K. G. Limaye:

There are products in which there is no competition. Voluntary agencies should concentrate on such products.

Dr. (Mrs) Uma Vyas:

Gujarat State Handicrafts Corporation gave training to our staff. It places orders on us. 700 women are working. They earn Rs. 6/- to Rs. 10/- a day. Monthly turnover is Rs. 80,000 to 90,000. The products are marketed through Gurjari. Good quality has to be ensured for successful marketing. After all, the products have to compete with products of other makes.

Prof. H. B. Ulemale:

Village is a primary producing centre. It is necessary to provide trucks to clusters of villages for transportation from the primary centres to terminal marketing. Such a link is necessary.

Dr. Jayant Rao Patil:

Marketing is the most difficult problem. Handicrafts products have no deterioration. Agricultural products are perishable. Till we organise proper storage and quick transport of agricultural products, we have to think of non-perishable products like red pumpkin, onion, garlic, coconut etc. which are non-perishable. We must develop such products.

Dr. V. N. Deshpande:

Processing of non-perishable products, drying of vegetables and establishment of storage facilities are also important.

Shri B. N. Nene:

Village alone cannot be a suitable marketing outlet. City outlet should also be developed. PADI should encourage voluntary organisations to establish urban marketing outlets.

Prof. H. B. Ulemale:

Shivaji Agricultural College at Amravati has developed a new machine called ROM (Reinforced Organic Manure). The machine works at the speed of 3500 RPM and could grind all agricultural waste, leaves, forest sweepings, jowar and maize, stocks and other wastes. The cost of the machine, is Rs. 15,000. There is a further improvement of this machine, by which even green matter can be converted into manure. PAD Maharashtra helped Shivaji Agricultural College to develop this machine. Encouragement of such innovative machines should be given by PADI.

Shri Shantibhai Solanki:

Marketing is a serious problem. There is no information about the products produced in different places and the products wanted in different places. Voluntary organisations should meet from time to time to find out the range of products they are producing and the extent of demand for such products in areas not served by them. If information on this point is available, it will be possible to improve market strategies of voluntary agencies.

Shri Prabhakar Limaye:

Socio-economic development should include education. Education is needed to build up awareness and to bring about motivation. Secondly, it helps in knowing how to convert available resources into consumable goods. Education is fundamental. PAD should assist educational schemes as part of socio-economic development schemes.

Mrs. Firoza Saran:

Forest land in India has diminished from 16% to 5%. We have the least forest covered lands in the world. Level of carbon consumption is increasing. Atmosphere is covered with carbon stopping earth's temperature from escaping. If solar cookers are encouraged, carbon consumption will be reduced.

Prof. H. B. Ulemale:

Punjabrao Krishi Vidya Peeth has produced a solar cooker for Rs. 500/-. Such models should be encouraged.

Dr. A. R. Patwardhan:

Biogas should be promoted to conserve environment regarding marketing, one has to be cautious as we should not over market at the cost of consumption.

Dr. G. C. Patel:

Irrigation is an important input. Lift, drip, sprinkler well and flow irrigation should be promoted. However, major irrigation schemes should be excluded from voluntary organisations.

Shri R. V. Patankar:

Poverty in our country is due to land and cattle. All socio-economic development schemes should be based on improvement of land and cattle.

Shri S. R. Sathe:

We have developed a latrine which will convert human waste into energy. A Gobar gas plant can also be attached to this latrine. This model should be encouraged.

Smt. Indu Tilak:

Marketing should be done in cities. Our organisation runs a shop in Pune and we are able to market all the products made by our village groups. So every project should start with marketing.

Dr. Kumar Saptarshi:

I am grateful to all the participants for their suggestions both during the Group meeting and in this plenary session. The views expressed by the participants would constitute the recommendation of this seminar-cum-workshop.

GROUP 'B'

Chairman—Shri V. S. Page

Shri. V. S. Page:

I am happy to present the report of Group 'B'. The subject matter is about Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and drinking water supply and sanitation programme. I would invite the members to express their views on the two programmes.

Prof. M. S. Deshpande:

Many tubewells are not working. Panchayat agencies are not effective. Monitoring of tubewells should be given to voluntary agencies. Maintenance and repair of tubewells should be entrusted to voluntary agencies.

Dr. A. R. Patwardhan:

In sanitation, kitchen garden should be included. That will ensure proper utilisation of waste water. Construction of a soak-pit is difficult. In drinking water wells, chlorinisation is difficult. Another way of cleaning drinking water well is to take out mud and leaves.

Prof. H. B. Ulemale:

Shivaji Agricultural College has developed 4-5 kitchen garden models. They may be adopted. In respect of drinking water, it has been observed that there is very little water percolation of soil. Water should be bored into walls to percolate it to soil. This will ensure recharge of aquifer.

Shri Prabhakar Limaye:

Village water schemes through pipeline is not suitable. It is suitable for cities. Let there be an irrigation scheme. That will include well schemes also. The water can be used both for irrigation and drinking water.

Shri R. K. Daw:

Our experience with PADI has been very good. Most of the project proposals we have been able to initiate are reported to have been cleared. I hope that PADI will keep up this trend. Drinking water in Maharashtra is a big racket. 90,000 tubewells have been drilled in Maharashtra out of which 55,000 are not in working order. Wastage of this order is colossal. Supply of drinking water is a sensitive political issue. It concerns bulk of the State's resources and has become a source of political patronage. Voluntary organisations can do much in drinking water supply. They can organise people's opinion on many issues. There are many areas in which the same platform is used both for handpumps and taps. This is nothing but sheer duplication of drinking water source. This, when many areas go without any water source. Another issue is, why drill upto 300 ft. if you get water at 200 ft. ? Another issue is whether the width of the pipe should be 6" or 4". On these issues, people's views can be mobilised by voluntary agencies. They can also organise local community to look after their own drinking water system.

Dr. (Mrs.) Uma Vyas:

Tribhuvan Das Foundation is making chulhas. In the last 5 months, we have installed 4500 chulhas in 45 villages at the rate of 100 chulhas per village. The cost of one chulha is Rs. 55/-. This is a UNICEF scheme. Beneficiary contribution is Rs. 10/- as token of involvement. Efficiency range is 30-35%. Indigenous materials are used. Even if they break, the chulha can be operated. Maintenance education is very important item. Adequate supervision is needed. Transport facilities should be provided to voluntary organisations to supervise programmes spread over a large area.

Shri R. V. Patankar:

Maintenance problem has to be tackled. Mass education is necessary in chulha programme. Demonstration has a place in extension method. Land development, land improvement and

social forestry can be encouraged through demonstrations. Institutions should be allowed to do demonstrations on the same basis as small and marginal farmers.

Shri M. S. Sagare:

Deepening of old wells is also necessary. Voluntary agencies do not get hold of findings of Geological Survey and it is hazardous on their part to go in for new wells without knowledge of availability of water.

Shri Arun Chavan:

Environment sanitation should also be one of the items of socio-economic development schemes.

Shri V. S. Page:

I am glad to conclude the discussions of Group 'B'. All the suggestions during the Group discussions and in the plenary session will form the recommendations of Group 'B'.

GROUP 'C'

Chairman—Smt. Indu Tilak

Shri Prabhakar Limaye:

Children seem to have been left out of PADI's DWCRA schemes.

Smt. Nancy Gaikwad:

Children should be included.

Shri Samuel Nazarath:

Training aspect should be given due priority. Disabled children should be covered.

Smt. Nirmala Purandare:

Tailoring, knitting and embroidery are traditional activities. We should also take up non-traditional activities for women.

Vanasthali Rural Development Centre found that dropout rate of students at the primary and secondary level is very high in rural areas mainly due to the fact that value of education is not inculcated in the minds of children and parents at the pre-school stage. Vanasthali Rural Development Centre focuses its attention on training Balwadi teachers. Only local women are selected as they are familiar with the needs of the children of their villagers. Once the teachers are trained, they are helped to start a Balwadi in the respective villages with the participation of local people and gram panchayats. About 300 Balwadis are currently run by our trained teachers. 100% of the pre-school children in rural areas get an aptitude for education from early childhood. I, therefore, strongly urge the training of Balwadi teachers, which is so important for development of children and for improvement of their education and nutrition status, should also be accepted as one of the admissible items of rural activities for women. This training of Balwadi teachers should not be rejected on the ground that it is not an income generating activity.

Shri S. N. Jatar:

DWCRA as adopted by PADI makes too drastic a departure from the Government scheme. One economic group under the Government scheme gets Rs. 20,000. Under PADI it will get Rs. 5 lakhs. This is not at all justified. The Government's programme is quite successful and effective. It is well linked with IRDP and UNICEF schemes. PADI's DWCRA attempts to plough a lonely furrow.

Smt. Indu Tilak:

DWCRA is an important scheme for women. I am glad that discussions in Group 'C' and plenary session centred round important issues connected with the scheme. All the views expressed would form the recommendations of the Seminar-cum-Workshop.

Shri T. C. A. Srinivasaramanujan:

We have now come to the end of this Seminar-cum-Workshop. The discussions have been very useful in identifying the suitable

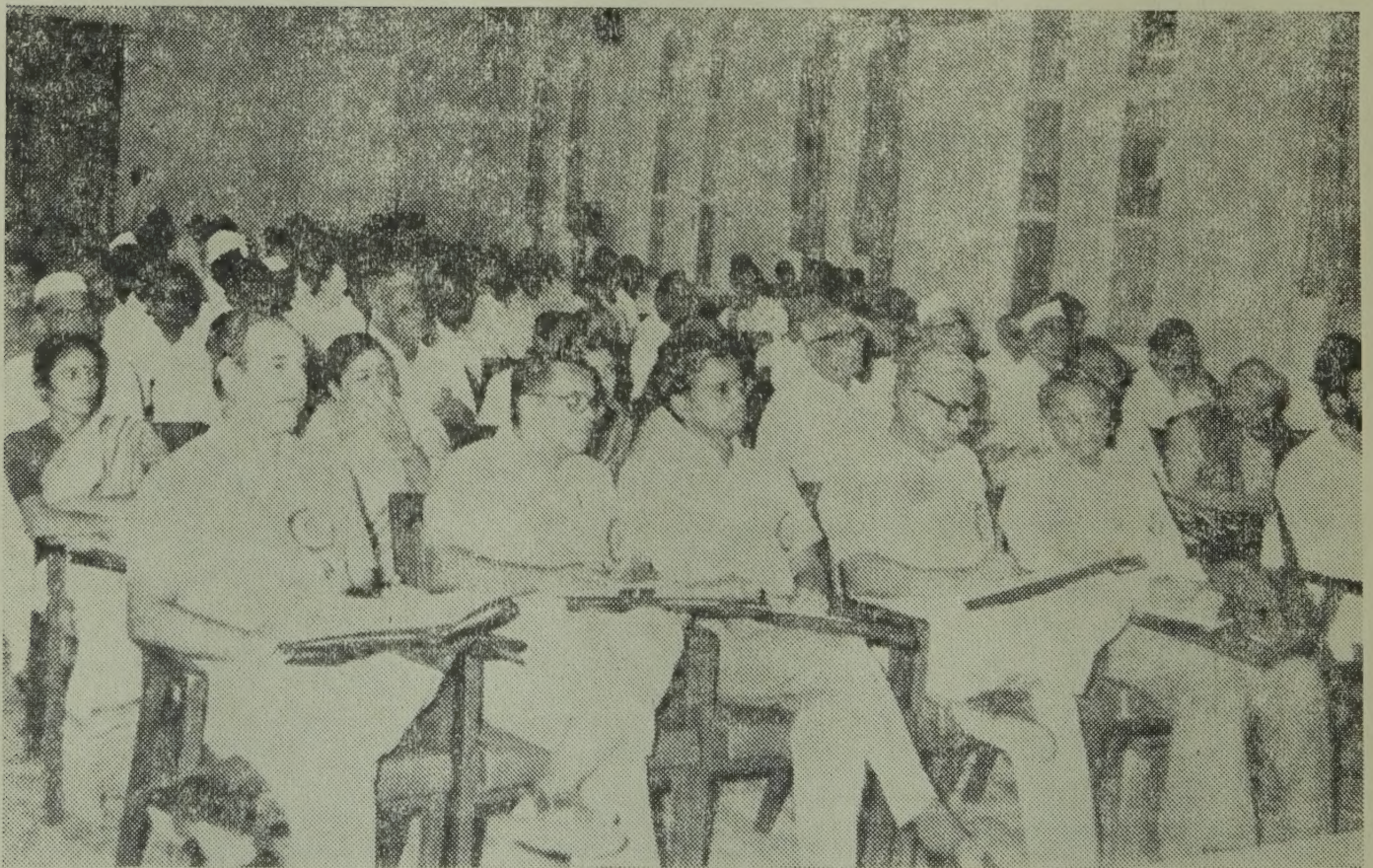
dimensions of schemes which can be taken up by voluntary organisations. PADI would carefully weigh the suggestions of participants, while scrutinising schemes of voluntary agencies. I have no specific comment to make on the deliberations of this workshop regarding socio-economic development schemes, RLEGP and drinking water supply and sanitation schemes. Regarding DW CRA, I want to clarify that there should not be any impression that against Rs. 20,000 given to an economic group under the Government scheme, Rs. 5 lakhs will be given to an economic group under the PADI scheme. No such comparison about the funding of groups should be made. In the Government scheme, there is a ceiling of funding for each group. Under PADI's scheme, there is no ceiling. Requirement of funds will be estimated on the basis of realistically assessed needs. There is no provision that Rs. 5 lakhs will be given for each group. The figure Rs. 5 lakhs is the ceiling for the project as a whole. All the other suggestions which came up during discussions are very useful.

Prof. S. Ramachandran:

The Seminar-cum-Workshop concluded with a vote of thanks from Prof. S. Ramachandran.



Shri B.N. Nene proposing vote of thanks. Dr. Jayant Patil, Shri K. Rajan, Shri T.C A. Srinivasaramanujan, Shri Sharad Kulkarni, Shri Jayantrao Tidak, Shri V.S. Page and Shri Samarjit Ray, from left to right.



A view of the gathering.

